



## **MONTHLY REPORT JUNE 2019**

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### **Commercial and Recreational Fisheries**

- June 1 started the seasonal closure of the Lt. Island South (Audubon) area and began the seasonal recreational limitations of shellfishing only at the Indian Neck recreational area and only on Sundays and Wednesdays.
- June brought warmer waters and good oyster growth.
- Shellfish farmers are busy keeping up with growing oysters and planting seed.
- Commercial wild fishing has dropped off, probably due to efforts required to comply with the state's vibrio control plan and the fact that many fishermen are also shellfish farmers with their hands full on their grants.
- Many commercial harvesters are harvesting oysters from the water in batches and icing them immediately. This extends the amount of time they can work, allowing them to get their limits.
- Some commercial shellfishermen are targeting quahogs because the price is very good.
- A rough, conservative estimate of commercial catches for the month is more than 195 bushels of oysters, more than 95 bushels of quahogs (double last month's harvest) and 50+ bushels of blood clams as tracked on commercial patrol.
- So far, for 2019, we have sold 602 annual recreational permits, totaling \$28,570. We have sold 72 seasonal recreational permits so far, totaling \$4,590.
- We estimate that more than 40 bushels of oysters and 5 bushels of quahogs were harvested by recreational harvesters this month.

### **Enforcement**

- We pulled a grant holder's truck out of the sand at Powers Landing.
- We gave a few verbal warnings to commercial harvesters for writing clear tags and having shade on their oysters.
- Deputy Constable Chris Manulla has been running boat patrols and performing grant checks, including photographing tags and logbooks.
- We gave a verbal warning to a fisherman stopped from fishing over the line at Herring River. Next time, he will lose his entire catch and get a written citation.
- We continue to receive complaints from two grant holders about their buoys being cut. It is hard to be everywhere at once all the time to understand how and when this is happening.
- Shellfish Constable Nancy Civetta continued surveying Egg Island, taking photos of inactive grants, purging cages and tags, gear on wrong grants, and derelict gear, advising those involved.
- Three grant holders were asked to flip over their rebar racks as a safety precaution, so the legs were not sticking up.
- One grant holder was asked to get his gear off an adjacent wild shellfishing area.
- We gave a written cease-and-desist order to a recreational permit holder who continued offering paid AirBnB experiences for people to watch the harvest of oysters and clams and then serve the shellfish to them back at her house. Meeting will be set up in July.
- We stopped one recreational fisherman from fishing at Indian Neck rec area on a closed day.
- We gave verbal warnings to four recreational permit holders about how we don't have family permits in Wellfleet. This continues to be an issue, both with children, where we take a softer approach, but also with adults, with a hard line, except with companions of the elderly.
- Four seed warnings were given to recreational harvesters.

- We received a complaint on our machine on a non-rec day that a group of foreigners was harvesting oysters and shucking them on the flats. We got the message too late.
- One person was shellfishing with last year's permit. He was allowed to keep his catch, and he renewed his permit.

### **State and Town Relations**

- We trained two dedicated Beach Dept. staff on selling shellfishing permits with new applications and database system.
- Civetta attended a Shellfish Advisory Board meeting and a Dredging Task Force meeting.
- Civetta escorted a consultant to the area of HDYLTA Trust intertidal land to inform their proposal for a survey of the area.
- Civetta attended the retirement celebration for shellfish biologist Diane Murphy from Barnstable County/Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution.
- We had to get a tire re-fixed on the 2016 truck.

### **Propagation**

- Assistant Constable Johnny Mankevetch beautifully led our multiple propagation efforts with adept coordination.
- We began cultching with the new barge, which worked wonderfully. However, the spreader had clogging problems and eventually broke down. Many thanks to the DPW for fixing it for us; we were only out of commission for about a week.
- We received five more deliveries of sea clam cultch, all that was budgeted for 2020.
- We planted 135,000 seed oysters from ARC Hatchery (paid for by County and State funds) and 200,000 seed oysters from Cape Cod Oyster Co.
- We broadcasted approximately 40,000 oysters from 2018 around the harbor.
- We hosted three AmeriCorps project days to complete these initiatives.
- Civetta swept clam nets.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nancy Civetta  
Shellfish Constable